

The Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption

PARISH OFFICE: 506 Fourth Street, Marietta OH 45750 PHONE: 740-373-3643
WEBSITE: www.stmarysmarietta.org www.facebook.com/stmarysmarietta EMAIL: info@stmarysmarietta.org



March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Passion Sunday

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sat	5:30 PM - George F. Buckman Jr.
Sun	8:00 AM - David & John Archer
	10:00 AM - Liv/dec'd members of the DeJosef Family
	12:00 PM - People of the Parish
Mon	7:45 AM - Richard Schneider, 22 nd Anniversary
	12:05 PM - Rich Gillon
Tue	7:45 AM - Michael Ezell
	12:05 PM - Helen Roesch
Wed	7:45 AM - Souls in Purgatory
	12:05 PM - Andrew Surella
Thu	7:45 AM - Regina Weinheimer
	12:05 PM - Steve & Corey Parman (Birthdays)
Fri	7:45 AM - Charles & Marie Rose
	12:05 PM - Liv/dec'd of the Joe & Luella Finkel Family
Sat	9:00 AM - Barb Brockmeier, 1 st Anniversary
	5:30 PM - People of the Parish
Sun	8:00 AM - Katherine Binegar, 25 th Anniversary
	10:00 AM - Liv/dec'd of the Azziz & Agnes Pouzide Family
	12:00 PM - James & Julia Matheny

SUNDAY MASSES - Saturday 5:30 PM; Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM

CONFESSIONS - Saturday 3:30-5:00 PM (or anytime by appointment)

BAPTISMS - Contact Parish Office

WEDDINGS - Contact Parish Office *six months* in advance

Rector - Rev. Msgr. John Michael Campbell (fatherjmike@gmail.com)

Parochial Vicar - Rev. Edward Maxfield Jr. (emaxfield@diosteub.org)

Permanent Deacon - Rev. Mr. Lee Weisend

Music Director - Mr. John Ontko (740) 350-4224 (ontkotb@suddenlink.net)

St. Mary School - 320 Marion St, (740)-374-8181 (www.stmaryscatholic.org)

School Principal - Elizabeth Tokodi (elizabethtokodi@stmaryscatholic.org)

K of C Grand Knight - Rusty Nesmith (304) 488-1167

Parish Council President - Luke Strahler (614) 309-8876

CWC President - Debbie Lazorik (740) 434-3769

Hibernians - James Farley (740) 706-1434

Prayer Line - & Eucharistic Adoration, Mrs. Shelly Medley (740) 525-6360

Health Ministry - Mrs. Janet Jaeger (740) 374-6768

Daily Bread Kitchen - Mrs. Carol Henshaw (740) 885-1181

St. Vincent De Paul - Help Line (740) 376-1334

Welcoming Committee - Jim Naylor (740) 350-5510

Divine Mercy Gift Shop - Barb Ritchie (740) 538-4733

*Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, there also will my servant be.*

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Mk 1:1-10; Is 50: 4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1—15:47.

PARISH PENANCE SERVICE:

Our Parish Lenten Penance Service is this Wednesday evening, March 29th at 7:00 PM. Several priests will be here for confessions that evening. Plan to attend this Penance Service with your family as an important part of your preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

FOOD FOR FAMILIES – THIS WEEKEND.

The Knights of Columbus are having a food drive to benefit the Daily Bread Kitchen. The most needed items include applesauce, fruit cocktail, peaches, canned cream of chicken & mushroom soup, green beans, baked beans, sausage gravy, and barbeque sauce. All parishioners are invited to participate.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS must be in by Wednesday morning in order to be included in the following weekend's bulletin. Announcements must be in writing.

VISITORS WELCOME! We welcome any visitors who are joining us for Mass this weekend. We hope your stay in Marietta is enjoyable. Any new parishioners at the Basilica are asked to please register with the parish office.

PARISH OFFICES are open from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM on Mondays and from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM Tuesday through Friday, with a lunch break from Noon until 1:00 PM each day.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

SUN	8:45AM	-	9:45 AM – CCD Classes in the Basilica Social Hall.
	6:00 PM	-	Youth Group Meeting in the Social Hall. See announcement.
MON	6:15 PM	-	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions. See announcement.
	7:00 PM	-	RCIA in the Basilica Social Hall.
	7:00 PM	-	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting in the Conference Room.
TUE	6:00 PM	-	Book Club Meeting in the Basilica Social Hall.
	7:30 PM	-	K of C Meeting. Knights will pray the Rosary at 7:00 PM.
WED	8:15 AM	-	6:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs
	7:00 PM	-	Parish Lenten Penance Service.
THU	4:30 PM	-	Basilica Grounds Clean-up. See announcement.
FRI	8:15 AM	-	6:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.
	5:00 PM	-	7:00 PM - Fish Fry in the Parish Center.
	7:00 PM	-	Stations of the Cross and Benediction.
SAT	9:00 AM	-	Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt. See announcement.

The Lord Will Never Be Outdone In Generosity!

Total collection last weekend: \$ 13,796.00

God bless those who support our Basilica Parish!

ROOF REPLACEMENT CAMPAIGN

as of 3/6/24

Total Cash Collected:	\$917,350
Pledges Outstanding:	<u>\$129,964</u>
Total Commitments	\$1,047,314

BASILICA FOUNDATION

A fund has been established by the Marietta Community Foundation for the maintenance and repairs of our Basilica. This fund is separate from the monthly maintenance collection.

ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is available at the Basilica. For more information, please visit this website: <http://www.stmarysmarietta.org> and go to the left side of the page. Click on the GIVE ON LINE BUTTON to see more information or sign up.

BASILICA GROUNDS CLEAN-UP

There will be a grounds clean-up around the Basilica this Thursday, March 21st from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Pruning, mulching, and general clean-up will be done. Please bring hand tools. All parishioners are welcome – just show up. For more information, please call 740-525-0053. The clean-up is organized by the Knights of Columbus.

SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

St. Mary Catholic School is growing, and we are looking to add to our teaching staff. We have openings for 2024-2025 for a Kindergarten and a 3rd grade teacher to offer (2) classes of each grade level. The applicants should have an Ohio teaching certificate and a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and teaching experience. Please email Principal Elizabeth Tokodi at elizabethtokodi@stmaryscatholic.org.

St. Mary Catholic School is partnering with Huck's Farm Market for an Easter baked good sale. Pies, cake, cookies, and bread/rolls will be available for purchase. Deadline to order is Friday, March 22. Order forms can be found on the school website at stmarys.k12.oh.us or by calling the school office.

We invite dads, grandfathers and uncles to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph with the students on Tuesday, March 19th. The school will be providing lunch for those in attendance this year beginning at 10:45 AM. An All School Mass at the Basilica will be at Noon.

Save the date! Our Spring Art and Music Show is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7th.

Our Home and School Organization is offering a Sarris Candy Fundraiser just in time to fill your Easter baskets with delicious things. This is an online ordering fundraiser open until March 22nd. The link to order is: Sarris Candy.

Registration for 2024-25 is underway. Inquiries can be directed to Mrs. Bradley at tammibradley@stmaryscatholic.org

DAILY BREAD KITCHEN

The Daily Bread Kitchen provides meals weekly to those in need in our community. Expenses have been commensurate with increased numbers and rising costs of food and supplies. Once again, we are asking for your prayers and support. Please place your donation in an envelope marked "DBK" and put it in the collection basket.

Thank you and God bless you.

K of C NEWS

K of C Meetings are held at the K of C Hall, 312 Franklin Street, Marietta. They are held the first and third Tuesday at 7:30 PM. The rosary will be prayed at 7:00 PM before the third Tuesday meeting.

The K of C Golf League Meeting will be Sunday, March 17th at 7:00 PM at the Marietta K of C Hall. All golfers interested are welcome to attend, past participants and interested new golfers. Please contact Ken Offenberger for more information – 740-350-4967.

4th Degree News: Bishop Hartley Assembly 840 will be having a meeting on Sunday, March 17th at 2:00 PM at the Marietta K of C Hall. This is an important meeting concerning voting on new members that will be attending the April 6th exemplification. 4th Degree Members, please try to attend.

DIVINE MERCY GIFT SHOP

If you have not found that perfect gift for your loved one, please stop in and check out our new items in the gift shop. Beautiful crucifixes from the Holy Land are made out of premium olive wood and covered with Mother of Pearl. There are many crucifixes and rosaries with relics that touched the tomb of Jesus in Jerusalem.

First Communion, Mother's Day, Father's Day and Graduations are coming soon. These crucifixes are stunning and perfect for any loved one. The gift shop is located in the social hall and is open after all weekend masses. If you prefer to shop during the week, contact Barb at 740-538-4733.

PURSE BINGO

St. John Central School is currently selling Purse Bingo tickets. The bingo will be March 23rd at 7:00 PM at the Churchtown K of C Hall. For tickets call the school at 740-896-2697.

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS

Envelopes were provided with your packet for our Easter Flower Memorials. Please PRINT the names of those you wish to remember on the back of the envelope and drop it in the collection basket. The flowers that will grace our Basilica this Easter Season will be in memory of those listed. Memorials are \$10.00 and names must be in by Monday, March 25th. REMINDER: If you give on line, please send us the names of those you want to remember.

QUILT RAFFLE

Catholic Women in Action (CWC) is planning to hold another quilt raffle. All money from the raffle will go toward the Basilica Roof Replacement. See the insert in this week's bulletin.

BASILICA BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet this Tuesday, March 19th at 6:00 PM in the social hall. Our March Book is "I Heard God Laugh" by Matthew Kelly. Come and enjoy a glass of wine/beer or your favorite beverage along with an appetizer and snacks. You do not have to finish or read the book to join in the discussion. All are welcome. For more information. Contact Debbie Lazorik at 740-434-3769.

SCHEDULING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Please check with the parish office before scheduling a meeting or event in the Basilica Social Hall, Conference Room, Library or using the Basilica Kitchen. **All meetings and events MUST be put in the Master Book in the Parish Office.**

2024 BREAKFAST AND EGG HUNT

Children and grandchildren of the Basilica are invited to join us for a pancake breakfast and egg hunt with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 23rd. Breakfast will be served at 9:00 AM followed by an egg hunt.

We are also requesting donations of small pre-wrapped candies that fit into eggs. Please leave in the baskets at the Basilica entrances by Sunday, March 17th. Interested in sponsoring or donating towards the event? Please call or text Lora Offenberger at 740-374-2126.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF March 23 and 24

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Lectors

Altar Servers

Sat: Evelyn Potter (CAPT)
5:30 Gregg Black (HOST)
Sheri Black (HOST)
Amy Brockett (CHALICE)
Sandy George(CHALICE)

Stan Vanlandingham
Dave Cech

Connor Richard
Maddie Combs
Anna Combs

Sun: Babs Douglass (CAPT)
8:00 Carol Antill(HOST)
Marcia McCabe (HOST)
John Douglass (CHALICE)
Nancy Funk (CHALICE)

Shelly Medley
Jaclyn Tate

David Baker
Brandon Boley
Mike Iaderosa
Joyce Iaderosa

10:00 Ken Schilling (CAPT)
Jennifer Schenkel (HOST)
Sherry Payne (HOST)
Janet Schilling (CHALICE)
Cathy Rauch (CHALICE)

Tom Hushion
Tim Williams

Bryson Black
Elijah Erb
Griffin Erb
Owen Krason
Liam Long
Benedict Parlin

12:00 Stan Vanlandingham (swap req.)
Lisa Taylor (HOST)
Sandy Bickert (HOST)
Jeanette Flowers (CHALICE)
Cheyenne Greenwood (CHALICE)

Mary Ellen Evans
Sherry Hill

Evan Huffman
Grant Huffman
Leah Schmidt

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, April 21: Catholic Women in Action and the Knights of Columbus are hosting a Spring Festival with a spaghetti dinner featuring Monsignor Luciana's famous sauce, kid games and raffles. All proceeds will benefit the Basilica roof fund.

Tickets are \$15 for an adult, \$12 for a child (includes kid games) and 3 and under are free.

There are a limited number of tickets available. Please contact Matt Miller: 330-243-5500 or Teresa Tokodi Domico at 740-516-8322 for tickets. Tickets are also available at the church rectory

HOG RAFFLE TO BENEFIT THE BASILICA ROOF FUND:

Lazy Acres Meats has generously donated a hog to be raffled off to benefit the Basilica roof fund. There will be 2 winners drawn, each receiving a ½ hog. The two winners will be able to choose how their hog is processed, along with the option of smoking it. Tickets are 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$25. The drawing will be held on April 5th. Please contact Matt Miller at 330-243-5500 or Teresa Tokodi Domico, 740-516-8322, or the church rectory to purchase your raffle tickets.

PARKERSBURG CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION CASH BINGO!! This Bingo will be held Sunday afternoon, April 7th at the K of C Hall, 1010 Market Street, Parkersburg. Early Bird Tickets are \$20 or \$25 at the door. Doors open at 1:00 PM and Bingo starts at 2:00 PM. The afternoon will also include a Country Store, Concessions and a Silent Auction. Contact Cierra Lang @ 740-525-7044 or Tamara Montgomery at 740-516-8941.

CROSS+FIRE YOUTH! Join us for DTS this Sunday, March 17th from 6:00 PM until 7:30 PM in the Basilica Social Hall. Feel free to wear green instead of black this Sunday as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day! Also if you have not already done so, please bring a donation of candy to the church if you are able. We'll be working on our Easter Service project (filling eggs) after our saint talk.



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 17, 2024

As we come closer to Easter, the cross looms larger. In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus stated his glory in plain terms. It was the cross.

People from other countries who were not Jewish traveled to Jerusalem so they could celebrate the Passover fest. These people approached Philip with a request. "Sir," they asked Philip, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to Andrew and told him what these people wanted to do. Then both Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus about it.

Like many other times in his gospel, John wove several themes into the scene. The foreigners were fellow pilgrims, seekers of the true God. They mingled with the Jews at Passover. The stage was set for the universal Messiah to reveal his true self, his true "glory." The Passover of the people would become the Passover of the Messiah.

"The time has come!" Jesus said. "The Son of Man will be given glory! Listen! If a grain of wheat stays on the stock, it's just there by itself. But if it dies and falls to the ground, it will produce a lot more grain. If someone wants to serve me, he should follow me where I am going. Wherever I am, My servant will be there, too. If someone wants to serve Me, My Father will honor him.

"God is judging the world right now, and He will throw the ruler of this world out. When I am lifted up, I will gather everyone to myself!"

This gospel can be divided into three sections: the request of the audience, Jesus' comments on self-giving, and the glory/judgment of the Father. With a Gentile audience, Jesus can reveal the meaning of servanthood and give glory to God.

The analogy of the wheat grain addressed the priorities of people. Those who selfishly clung to life would remain on the stalk alone, and would wither away. Those who gave their lives to others would die, but see others live and would enjoy eternal life. They would bear "much fruit." Notice those who gave up their lives unselfishly followed Jesus to his death. Jesus did not follow them.

The self-giving of Jesus revealed his status as the only Son of God. Jesus revealed his glory as God's "Servant." To be a servant of the Lord (his follower), one must serve him and others. The servant served the servants, creating an equality among the followers of Jesus. So, the "glory" of the Christian community was humility. Leadership was to be exercised in love and humble service, not in power and brutality. The Father would honor those who truly followed in the footsteps of the Master. Jesus' death would reveal the glory of the Father. Everyone would be lifted up with Jesus, on the cross and in the resurrection.

Catechism Theme: Christ's Self-Giving Death on the Cross

Christ's death began something new. A new relationship with God in God's new time. The dying breath of Jesus released his Spirit upon the world. It established a new covenant and marked the beginning of the end times. Nothing would ever be the same.

The image of Jesus on the cross reveals what sort of God we believe in and what sort of response He asks for. First, when Jesus freely gave himself over to sinful men, He showed the world that His Father was full of love. His Father was willing to go to any length to bring all of us into a love relationship with Himself. Second, the image of Jesus on the cross invites (does not demand) us to love God in return. Thus, through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, God offers himself to all of us in love, and, through the cross, we all can respond in kind.

The cross marked the end of disobedience. His Son obeyed. And through His Son's obedience, we can participate in God's love, that which empowers obedience. Through His Son's obedience, we are justified before God, for we now can love as God loves us.

Love has a cost. It involves suffering and sacrifice. We, as Christians, follow Jesus to the cross where He shows us the way to the Father. The glory of the Christian is the cross, for the cross points to God's love far better than any other blessing received in life. It is a universal sign of God's love. And a universal invitation to follow Jesus. Let us pray we, too, can show others God's love, even though His love leads to the cross and to the Resurrection.



PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS – MONDAY

Perpetual Help devotions will be celebrated this Monday evening at 6:15 pm. Since our basilica is dedicated to Mary, it is obvious that we offer devotions, why not come to experience these devotions

PILGRIMAGES TO OUR BASILICA

Our Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption welcomes all visitors, encouraging them to come, pray, and enjoy our beautiful church. If you are a member of a group who would like to tour our Basilica or make a spiritual pilgrimage, please let us know how we can be of assistance. We are honored to host visitors and pilgrims to our Basilica.



The Penitential Prayer of St. Ephrem

Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power and idle chatter. Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience and love. Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins, and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, March 18,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass
6:15 pm. - Perpetual Help Devotions
7:00 pm. - RCIA

Tuesday, March 19

7:45 am. - Mass
9:30 am. - Pilgrimage – Monroe, NC
12:05 pm. - Mass
7:00 pm. - Penance Service Caldwell

Wednesday, March 20,

7:45 am. - Mass
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
12:05 pm. - Mass
6:45 pm. - Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00 pm. - Marietta Penance Service

Thursday, March 21,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass

Friday, March 22,

7:45 am. - Mass
9:30 am. - Adoration of the Sacrament
12:05 pm. - Mass
3:30 pm. - School Stations (Basilica)
5:00 pm. - School Fish Fry
6:45 pm. - Reposition of the Sacrament
7:00 pm. - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 23,

9:00 am. - Mass
10:30 am. - Easter Egg Hunt/reakfast
11:30 am. - Mass
3:30 pm. - Confessions
5:30 pm. - Mass

Sunday, March 24,

8:00 am. - Mass
9:00 am. - Stations at St. Henry's
9:30 am. - Mass – Saint Henry
10:00 am. - Mass
12:00 am. - Mass



Wisdom of the Ages...

Tertullian, a Christian writer who died in the third century, wrote the following: "Thus, you read the word of God, spoken to Jeremiah: "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you." If God forms us in the womb, He also breathes on us as He did in the beginning: "And God formed man and breathed into him the breath of life." Nor could God have known man in the womb unless He were a whole man. "And before you came forth from the womb, I sanctified you." Was it, then, a dead body at that stage? Surely it was not, for "God is the God of the living and not the dead."



EASTER EGG HUNT

On Saturday, the Basilica will host the annual Easter Egg Hunt. We invite all children of the parish for a fun filled time and lots of candy and treats. Come and enjoy the fun filled party!

Thoughts on the gospel

The Gospel of Christ is the Gospel of Life, precisely because when the "grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it produces much fruit." The paradox of the Gospel of Life is that life is poured out on the world precisely when life is given away for the good of others. In *Evangelium Vitae* we read: "He who had come 'not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many' (Mk 10:45), attains on the Cross the heights of love: 'Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends' (Jn 15:13). And He died for us while we were yet sinners. 'In this way Jesus proclaims that life finds its center, its meaning and its fulfillment when it is given up. 'At this point our meditation becomes praise and thanksgiving, and at the same time urges us to imitate Christ and follow in his footsteps. 'We too are called to give our lives for our brothers and sisters, and thus to realize in the fullness of truth the meaning and destiny of our existence'"

Christ is the grain of wheat that falls to the earth, but is also "lifted up from the earth" – both on the cross and in the Resurrection and Ascension. And the fruit is that He "draws all people to himself."

We have here the powerful themes of life-giving fruitfulness and unity. The Culture of Death denies both. It embraces, through "pro-choice" rhetoric, the "loving of one's own life" that Christ rejects in this Gospel teaching. The words "This is my body" are used with opposite meanings: "I control my life" or "I give my life."

As we approach Holy Week and meditate on the Passion, it is a perfect time to call our people to a renewed commitment to give themselves to defend the vulnerable.



DECEASED PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE

On Monday, we remember the 26th anniversary of the death of Fr. Alexander Raab. On Thursday, we remember the 56th anniversary of the death of Fr. Ambrose Schilling, and the 9th anniversary of the death of Msgr. John Cymbor. On Saturday, 25th anniversary of the death of Fr. Richard Battocletti. These priests served our Diocese to

the best of their ability. May they rest in peace

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PILGRIMAGES TO THE BASILICA

- Mar. - 19, - Tour – Our Lady of Lourdes – North Carolina
- Mar. - 26, - 2:00 pm. Diocesan Chrism Mass
- Apr. - 23, - Pilgrimage - Johnstown, Ohio.
- Apr. - 28, - 2:00 pm. Confirmation with Bishop Bradley
- May, - 8, - Pilgrimage – Assumption Church, Barnesville, Ohio
- May, - 29, - Pilgrimage – St. Philip Church, Pittsburgh, P. A.
- Aug. - 23, - U.S. Tours



The Meaning of Offering Individual & Collective Penance

Sinning is the act of turning away from God and His ways; trying to do things on our own. When we sin or turn away from God, we turn away from our source of strength and life. We become weak and paralysis takes over; not only physically and mentally, but worse yet, spiritually. However, the sinful character of mankind is something which we all share in common and so it takes a group effort to bring ourselves and one another back to the Source of life. But we must remember that we each have to do our own fair share of the effort. And our fair share means using the full power which God has given us. The men who carried the mat of their friend in the Gospel share the burden of his palsied state.

They not only brought him to the building where Christ was present, but they also shared his faith and made every effort to bring him directly into the presence of Christ. Great things can be accomplished through faith and if we want to come closer to God and follow His ways better enough, we can find ways to do so. Jesus saw that they had a sincere faith and desire to become well again and so the first thing he did was to get to the root of the problem and forgive his sins to heal that gap between the man and God. After his sins were forgiven and a new life was given to the palsied man. Christ told him to pick up his mat and go home; to return to his family and friends, show them what God had done for him, and live the new life which he had received.

Pope Francis meets FSSP head, & confirms right to celebrate the Traditional Latin Mass



Pope Francis met with the superior general of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP) on Thursday, confirming that restrictions on the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass don't apply to the order. The private meeting between the pope and Father Andrzej Komorowski, came at the invitation of Francis.

The meeting was an opportunity to showcase “deep gratitude to the Holy Father” and to discuss the “liturgical specificity of the Fraternity of St. Peter.” At the heart of the FSSP’s charism is the celebration of the Mass and the sacraments according to the extraordinary form of the Roman rite, also known as the Tridentine Mass.”

The FSSP’s statement noted that “The pope was very understanding and invited the Fraternity of St. Peter to continue to build up ecclesial communion ever more fully through its own proper charism,” the statement said. The Feb. 29 meeting between the FSSP and the pope is their second such encounter in recent years. According to internal 2023 figures, the FSSP currently has 368 priests, 22 deacons, and 179 seminarians. The FSSP is present in 146 dioceses, celebrates Mass in 246 locations, and counts 48 personal parishes.



SAINT MARY BASILICA

506 Fourth Street
Marietta, Ohio 45750



Dear Parishioners,

March 17, 2024

Today is Passion Sunday – a turning point in the season of lent. In the first four weeks of lent, we have been concerned with personal conversion and repentance. Now we focus on the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. Jesus was about to suffer and be crucified. He made a definite statement: “The hour has come”, Jesus told His disciples: “The Son of man of Man is to be glorified. I solemnly assure you, unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit.” From that moment on, there was no turning back.

The reason Jesus came into the world was for the hour of the Cross – the hour of His death. The purpose of His mission from His Father was death on the Cross. In the words of Jesus, “When I am lifted up on the Cross, I shall draw all men and women to Myself.”

Jesus is the seed – that grain of wheat which dies and grows up out of the earth in the Resurrection to new and more abundant life. Jesus is that seed, planted within us at Baptism so that in our own death, we shall rise to newness of life. Because we are united to Him, we too are called to be grains of wheat and thus die to ourselves with Him.

Each of us is like a grain of wheat. We have a hard outer shell which protects us. It provides a way to view the world and exercise control over it. Yet we are called to die to ourselves as Jesus did, so that we can unlock our lives and truly begin to live. In order to grow, we must let go and reach out and embrace the mystery of the grain and wheat. We must die to ourselves in order to come alive. We must die to ourselves through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Saint John Paul II wrote: “Contemporary men and women seem to find it harder than ever to recognize their own mistakes and to decide to retrace their steps and begin again after changing course. They seem to be reluctant to say: “I repent or I am sorry.”

In the Sacrament of Penance, Jesus looks right through our sins to draw us to Himself. I realize that for many Catholics, going to Confession is not easy, but going to Confession is like death. Our pride has to die so that we can be humble before the Lord. In the Sacrament, Jesus looks right through our sins and forgives them. We are all sinners – this is our season. During these last few days of lent, we can do nothing more that will benefit us more than to come to Jesus in this Sacrament.

Rejoice In Christ,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell

Holy Week and the Easter Season

Jesus is the source of our salvation and the source of our faith. As we prepare to remember His suffering, death and resurrection, we enter into a special time of holiness, called Holy Week. During this special time of remembrance, we “walk with Christ” as He accomplishes our salvation. We remember and relive the key events that took place as He brought about our salvation.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD’S PASSION

This is the day that we remember Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Jesus was welcomed as a king by the crowds in Jerusalem. Jesus showed His humility in this scene. The people want a glorious warrior-king to violently drive out the hated Romans. But Jesus comes as the King of Peace, humbly riding a donkey.

CHRISM MASS

Tuesday at 2:00 PM

Bishop Bradley, the Chief Pastor of the Diocese of Steubenville, celebrates this Mass in Marietta for the diocese. Clergy and laity* from across the diocese will be here for this special Mass.

MASS OF ANOINTING

Wednesday at 7:00 PM

The Oil of the Sick, blessed by Bishop Bradley, will be used to celebrate the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. On this night we remember Christ’s love for those who are sick and suffering. Those who are over 65 years of age, or who have a serious illness, or are preparing for surgery are invited to receive the anointing.

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday, at 7:00 PM

On this night we commemorate the Last Supper. Jesus celebrated the Passover meal remembering how God had saved Israel from slavery in Egypt. Two major events took place at the Last Supper: Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Eucharist, and He instituted the ordained priesthood.

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, at 7:00

We commemorate Jesus’ suffering and death on the Cross on this, the most sober day of the Church year. The altar is bare: no cloths, no candles, no flowers. There is no Mass. We fast and abstain from eating meat today as penance for our sins and the sins of the world. [Read the whole story: John chapters 18 & 19]

HOLY SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL

8:00 PM to 10:00 PM

The Easter Vigil is the culmination of the Sacred Triduum and the most solemn celebration of the Church year. St. Augustine called it “the mother of all vigils.” Of all the ceremonies this is the richest in its meaning. The mystery of our faith is laid out before us in one single ceremony!

Today is Passion Sunday

The fifth Sunday of Lent, a Sunday of the first class, not permitting the celebration of any feast, no matter of what rank, but allowing a commemoration of feasts which are not transferred. It is called *Dominica de Passione* in the Roman Missal. It is also known as Judica Sunday, from the first word of the Mass. Since after this Sunday there are not many more days of the Lenten season the Greek Church admonishes the faithful to special mortifications, and places before them the example of the penitent St. Mary of Egypt.



In the Dioceses of the United States, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from the fifth Sunday

of Lent, may be observed. The Church recommends this practice to heighten our senses and build within us a longing for Easter Sunday.

We use veils to alert us of the special time that we are in. When we walk into church and notice everything is covered, we immediately know that something is different. These last two weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the Sacred Triduum and these veils are a forceful reminder to get ready.

Secondly, the veils focus our attention on the words being said at Mass. When we listen to the Passion narrative, our senses are allowed to focus on the striking words from the Gospel and truly enter into the scene.

Third, the Church uses veils to produce a heightened sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday. This is further actualized when you attend daily Mass and see the veils each day. You don't want them to be there hiding our images. The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth. We live in a "veiled" world, in exile from our true home. It is only through salvation that the veil is lifted and we are finally able to see the beauty of everything in our lives. This tradition can be passed down to our children, who will be intrigued by it and it will make this time of year truly special for them. We go through great lengths to decorate our homes for Easter, so why not prepare for the great feast by using veils?

This Lent, May We Open Ourselves to God's Love

God's abiding love has not only set us free but has lifted us higher as well. An honest look at human history reveals that human nature is flawed. God wants to hear and mend our ways. Sin is not just the breaking rules; it causes real harm. The Gospel reminds us: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." Despite our sins, God does not remove his love; his love for us remains. God does everything to help us. He does not force us to respond. He stands at the door and knocks. He does not barge in; we must open ourselves to him. He offers, but some reject him, preferring sin and darkness. The rejection comes from our hearts. It is not from God.